



GROUND COVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

DECEMBER 2012 VOLUME 3 ISSUE 12

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Is Groundcover biased?



by Susan Beckett
Publisher

A vendor reported that some of her regular customers have stopped buying from her because they think the content in Groundcover is too political and favors the Democrats. I can see why they might think that, but it is actually just a reflection of the segment of our community that has chosen to speak out via Groundcover.

As a newspaper, we try to be inclusive of the whole community. Our volunteer staff endeavors to be fair and unbiased in the articles and columns that we write, though we do

have a point of view. That view is that issues that primarily affect the poor are underrepresented in mainstream reporting and discussion and that part of our mission is to bring them to light.

In doing so, we have called out those whose policies were further burdening the poor, and complimented those whose actions were easing those burdens. We criticized Governor Snyder and the Michigan Legislature for eliminating the Michigan Earned Income Tax Credit, adding a burdensome asset test for federal food assistance benefits and imposing draconian lifetime limits on cash assistance. At the same time, we complimented them on eliminating the onerous driver responsibility fee. We criticized the legislature for passing legislation that we see as suppressing voter turnout, but acknowledged Governor Snyder for refusing to sign

it. We complimented the governor and legislature for beginning the process of improving the Public Defender system, especially in Oakland County.

We aim our coverage at timely topics, and this fall, that included the election. Our November issue featured a neutral Agency Spotlight on the League of Women Voters. It also included an editorial submitted by a reader, who also happened to be our first editor. While she expressed a point of view, she did it in a fair and balanced manner that made it easy for those who disagreed with her to decide on the alternate candidate.

Similarly, in October we ran an opinion piece submitted by a reader that questioned Mitt Romney's credibility. She did so by analyzing the responses he gave in a Parade magazine interview, and demonstrated how critical reading

is essential to teasing out a candidate's actual position on issues, or lack thereof.

In this season of forgiveness, I'm hopeful that those of you who took offense to the content of some of Groundcover will look past that and continue to act from the kind impulse that led you to buy Groundcover in the first place. Send us letters and articles that reflect your point of view – we'd sincerely love to have the chance to print them!

To all our readers, vendors, advertisers and volunteers: thank you for everything you've done to make Groundcover a vehicle for self-sufficiency for the economically marginalized people in our community. May the satisfaction from your efforts add to your enjoyment of the holidays.

Camp Take Notice helps Hurricane Sandy victims dig out

by Andrew Nixon
Associate Editor

In hurricane-ravished New Jersey, a grassroots disaster relief nonprofit, Brick Hurricane Relief, will have a full week's help from two tent communities who are apparently undaunted by the task of disaster relief despite the challenges of their own living conditions.

Washtenaw County's own tent community, Camp Take Notice (CTN), was evicted last June from its Ann Arbor site. Although the camp was forced to disband, the community of individuals still meets weekly for peer support, to reach out to other housing-insecure individuals, and to explore opportunities to obtain a new site for the camp.

At a recent meeting, the group discussed a trip to New Jersey to do hurricane relief work. Plans subsequently were made, and between November 16-25, a number of individuals representing CTN traveled to the East Coast to volunteer for Brick Hurricane, serving meals and helping bring order back to Sandy victims' homes and property.

CTN volunteers arranged to stay with another homeless tent community close to the action, bringing their own living supplies so as not to burden their hosts. The two communities decided to team up in their relief work for the nonprofit.

Brick Hurricane's Facebook page has been chronicling the group's efforts. The following comment about CTN's help there was posted on their page:

I want to tell you about our missionaries. All I knew is that they were from Michigan, organized



Camp Take Notice volunteers removed soggy drywall from coastal New Jersey homes.

by an artist group. They insisted on staying at tent city(homeless community 15 minutes from here, you should check it out on YouTube or in person, it's humbling) and I could not understand why at first. But after meeting them and hearing their stories , we get it..... Some of them are from the homeless community in Michigan (Camp Take Notice). They raised money, not to build homes for them, but to come help us with ours. I have never been so moved in my life. 'Thank you' is not enough to express the gratitude to these men and women for their selfless act.

Kudos, Camp Take Notice!

For photos and more information about Brick Hurricane Relief's efforts, and to see CTN volunteers in action, visit Brick Hurricane Relief on Facebook.

Letter to the Editor

The biggest change between the Kennedy years and now in politics, is that back then intentionally hurtful rhetoric, name calling, and open fear-mongering were generally quickly marginalized. Bipartisan cooperation was more often given freely than grudgingly (as in the case of Medicare). Despite our very real progress in many other areas, we are indeed a much poorer society because of this unfortunate change.

— Paul Lambert

An unfolding story



by Rev. Dr. Martha Brunell
Pastor, Bethlehem
United Church of
Christ

Many faith traditions, particularly in the Northern hemisphere, have practices and rituals based upon light during the darkest days of the year. One of the common light practices of Christian people is to put up a Christmas tree. I am a die-hard fan of a real live tree, whether it has been cut at a tree farm or in the woods or arrives with a huge soil ball and is ready to plant.

There have been a few years when

I adorned the tree with lit candles, but more often it has been covered with small white lights. My ornament collection dates back almost forty years to when I was a young seminarian. There are many handmade ornaments on my tree. Some have been purchased in fair-trade stores and come from around the globe.

There are ornaments from Vermont, Massachusetts, Missouri, Illinois, and Michigan, all states I have lived in since I was a young adult. Among the ornaments are those bought when I have been traveling; others have been found at art fairs. I have chosen ornaments myself and I have received ornaments from friends and family. Since my two daughters were born, I have given them one or more ornaments yearly. At almost twenty-nine and twenty-six now, they already

Low-income phone plans expand

by Rose W. with commentary by Shelley DeNeve
Groundcover Vendors

If you've been without a phone or unhappy with your level of service, read this article about a great phone communication deal geared toward the low-income community.

Preamble by Shelley: "I'm tired of being monopolized by these big phone companies charging an arm and a leg for the convenience of having a cell phone. It seems to me that they continually invent more things for you to do with a phone, and when the choices increase, so does the cost. Having so many choices makes my head spin. Then suddenly, I find myself trapped into a contract (even though the advertisement may have referred to "no contract") with outrageous charges.

"I remember back in the day when there was only one phone company, Michigan Bell. Everyone complained back then that they were a monopoly. If they could see what it costs for a phone now, they'd roll over in their graves. On one hand, I feel like technology complicates things. On the other hand, it can also make life easier, if you're able to keep up with the constant changes.

When my son shows me things on his phone, for the most part I find them pretty fascinating."

In this time of shrinking budgets and services, there's a bright spot. Stay connected to family, services and potential employers for free!

Assurance Wireless (a division of Virgin Mobile) offers a free cell phone and 250 minutes talk and text for qualifying customers. Sounds too good to be true, right? No, it's not a gimmick. Lifeline, a federal government service providing discounted phone service for qualifying low-income consumers, funds the program through a cell phone tax. The only requirement is low income.

The Lifeline assistance program is a critical resource to help those struggling to make ends meet in our challenging economy. Domestic unemployment remains high at 8.1 percent, meaning 12.5 million people are out of work and millions are living below the poverty level.

A Michigan Assurance Wireless customer must make no more than 135% of the poverty level, which comes to \$1,256 per month for a single individual, or be receiving public

have storied boxes of ornaments.

In a sense, each year my tree tells many stories of places, people, moments, joys, sorrows, and varied stops along my journey. I look at the fully-dressed tree and I remember the year when Molly, my younger daughter, was a small child. She had rearranged every ornament she could reach into categories. The stars were on one section of the tree, the musical instruments on a second, the animals on a third, and so forth. She has always been very good at patterns.

I also recall the year when my older daughter, Amanda, was a junior in high school and turned to me and announced she would be taking her box of ornaments off to college in a year and a half and those ornaments would no longer hang on the family tree. I wasn't quite ready to think about that,

and indeed some of my very favorite ornaments are now with my girls in their homes.

My Christmas tree resembles an unfolding story never exactly the same from year to year. The practices and rituals we each observe in our lives are not closed and finished, simply to be repeated over and over. How we celebrate evolves with time. The changes can be exciting and anticipated and they can be tinged with tender pain. But our ritual habits and practices of celebration live and breathe much like we do. In 2012, you may acknowledge a holiday as you have before or you may be facing new circumstances. Whether you find yourself in likeness or difference this holiday season, know that your story is still unfolding with surprises yet to be.

assistance such as Medicaid, food stamps, or disability assistance.

Recently, the FCC approved the expansion of services Assurance offers. As a result, people who were previously denied will now qualify, including those in homeless shelters or with temporary addresses, those in nursing homes or group homes, and adults of

separate households living in a single residence. A larger variety of plans is also being offered, including a \$5 plan with an additional 250 minutes and 500 text messages. An unlimited talk, text and data plan is \$30 without a contract. To determine your eligibility or apply for the program, visit www.assurancewireless.com, or call (800) 395-2171.



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Movement for Peace settles in Ann Arbor, brings relief to New York

by Susan Beckett

Ann Arbor native Robert Servis, recalling this area's generosity, progressiveness and dynamism, opted this summer to establish a physical presence here for his non-profit, Movement for Peace. Hurricane Sandy relief was an opportunity to connect the resources in Ann Arbor to the needs in their other office location: New York.

Servis and other volunteers went door-to-door to businesses and houses here collecting supplies. They loaded them into a van along with tarps and cooking gear. Servis and chef David Lauer drove the supplies to New York. They set up their outdoor kitchen in Tottenville, Staten Island, and proceeded to produce hot food, including chicken parmesan subs, baked ziti, and roasted red pepper soup and drinks around the clock. The police, sanitation workers and firemen working in the area appreciated the warmth as much as the residents. Servis and Lauer took turns sleeping for three hours at a time so they could have sustenance available 24/7.

They canvassed the area to assess needs and then delivered targeted supplies, many of which came from Washtenaw County.

The organization's mission is to get help to those who need it with an emphasis on finding and implementing sustainable solutions. This is illustrated in their work in Surkhet, Nepal. Initially, they provided albendazole to treat the flat worms, round worms and other intestinal parasites that were robbing 20 percent of the nutrition from the minimal diets of area residents. Since the source of the parasites is dirty water, they are now installing Sawyer water filters into existing well piping to break the cycle of parasitic infection and hunger. They



Canvasser Gabrielle Costello gets hot chocolate for the boys while the family hears about Hurricane Sandy relief efforts and needs.

are training local people to maintain the filters. Next year, they will return to address sanitation issues.

Comprehensive and cooperative problem solving characterizes their work. Servis notes that Haiti has more missionaries per square mile than anywhere on the planet but little progress is being made. Movement for Peace has been helping with an orphanage there as they assessed the situation, and are now moving toward more sustainable projects.

Servis notes that between the United States government and charitable donations, our country contributes over \$300 billion each year to foreign aid. (Government foreign aid accounts for only \$50 billion, and the vast majority of that is strategic rather than humanitarian foreign aid.) Yet according to the United Nations, \$30 billion per year would eliminate hunger from the planet. The World Bank estimates that \$5 to \$21 billion would cover the cost of bringing clean

Washtenaw County field manager Heather Wyatt, who has nine years of experience with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), relocated from the Hillsdale area to take this job. She was enticed here, she said, "because, unlike other NGOs, we take care of the root of the problem... instead of just throwing money at the symptoms."

EMU student Mikaela Gray works for Movement for Peace as a part-time canvasser. She commented, "This is a more fulfilling kind of job. I had been making pizzas for college students. At the end of the day, I now feel like I helped out other people."

Canvassers in our area and New York give out 15 urns of hot drinks during each day of canvassing. While folks get their drinks, Gray and other canvassers inform them about roundworms, flat worms and other parasites in the drinking water in developing countries. They collect donations to fund their work. They are funded solely by donations, some of which come from monthly sponsors.

Each canvasser also gets to pick a project they favor to receive a percentage of the donations they collect. One such project provides food to pet shelters, which is especially important as part of the response to natural disasters like hurricanes that displace pets as well as people.

Servis has been disappointed by what he considers a regressive stance towards public forums on U-M property. Rather than welcoming Movement for Peace as an opportunity for students to learn and participate in development projects, U-M asked them to leave campus property when they first set up there.

Movement for Peace grew out of a project undertaken by a Hollywood, Florida non-profit, Planting Peace, which concentrated on solutions for homelessness. Servis and fellow activist Aaron Jackson traveled to Haiti to

They have three staff members and hundreds of volunteers in New York, and five staff people (most of them part-time) in Ann Arbor. The local volunteers come largely from Eastern Michigan University, though there are volunteers from the University of Michigan and townspeople, too.

see MOVEMENT, page 5

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Aimee turns grief into giving

by Aimee Ciccarelli
Groundcover Vendor

Hello Readers. My name is Aimee Ciccarelli and I am writing this article in remembrance of my son, Jaden Daniel Giovanni Ciccarelli. He was born on May 28, 2002 and died on July 14th 2002. His life and death was one of the hardest things I have ever gone through, but in the end I learned how to grieve in a positive way.

He had a genetic heart defect called hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS). He had open heart surgery at the University of Michigan hospital when he was a week old, and another emergency surgery called diaphragm plication when two weeks old. Had he lived, he would have had another open heart surgery at 6 months, another at 18 months, another at 3 years, and a full heart transplant as a teen or young adult. He would have been on medications all his life. He would never have been able to participate in sports or exercise.

As an infant, he could not breastfeed or even bottle-feed; he had to be tube-fed and I had to learn how to insert the tube and set it up to feed him. The reason for this is that he would burn more calories than he could take in without the tube. Children with HLHS are often referred to as "blue babies" – they have a lower level of oxygen than the normal person. Jaden was a full-term baby weighing 7 lbs 7 oz. At birth, the heart valves were open and he was

getting enough oxygen. But then the heart valve closed.

Until about 30 years ago, this condition was 100 percent fatal. Now, with modern science there is a series of surgeries where stints are put into the heart to make the right atrium do the work of pumping oxygenated blood to the body. Basically, the left atrium does not form: it is like the opening to a cave with no cave. So the right atrium is made to do all the work. This causes the heart to do a tremendous amount of work. That is why they have to be tube-fed and eventually put on a high-calorie diet to try to fuel the extra work the heart must do.

When Jaden had his surgery, there was another little boy named Caden who was born two days apart from Jaden with the same heart defect. They were operated on at the same time by two surgeons, Dr. Oyey and Dr. Oyey. Dr. Oyey was Jaden's surgeon; Dr. Oyey was



Aimee Ciccarelli holds one of the many stuffed animals she gives away to help people through difficult times.

Unfortunately, Jaden did not do well after the surgery and had to have diaphragm plication, a procedure to relieve pressure put on the lungs by the diaphragm. He panted like a puppy and cried like a kitten. God took him in his sleep on July 14, 2002.

Immediately after losing him I had a psychotic breakdown. I was overwhelmed with guilt and grief. I destroyed the house; turned the furniture upside down and pulled out all the drawers. I turned to drugs and

Caden's. At the time, I was living in Northville on the Rouge River. I had a big rock that was shaped like a heart with a vein running down the middle like an aorta, and a big hollow spot on the left side like Jaden's missing left atrium. I cleaned it up and presented it to Dr. Oyey as a gift in appreciation of his services operating on my son. He told me he has it as a centerpiece in his rock garden at home.

alcohol. I relived his death over and over in my mind. I wanted to die, too.

For many years since, I have suffered from nightmares where I have relived his life and death. For such a long time, I suppressed these memories and turned to drugs as a way to mask the pain. I was grieving in a negative way and slowly killing myself with my addiction.

As of six months ago – since October 30, 2012 – I have been clean from drugs and alcohol. About three months ago, I got an idea to start donating stuffed animals as a way to grieve Jaden's death in a positive way. This has been a very rewarding experience and I think the kids and people I have donated to get something positive out of it, and so do I.

One lady I have donated to had bone marrow cancer. She likes elephants and I have a picture of her with the elephant I gave her named Trunkerton. I also donate stuffed animals at my church and wherever I go. I plan to continue to do this, and eventually I will volunteer at Mott's Children's Hospital.

Jaden means "God is listening" or "God has heard." Daniel is after the Elton John song "Daniel." I cried because my baby died; then I met a woman who couldn't have children. And I have four beautiful, healthy children to be grateful for. So I am truly blessed. Thank you for listening to my story. God bless us all.

Movement for Peace coming to Detroit?

continued from page 4

make a photo documentary on Haitian street children. There they witnessed the country's devastation and learned how little money was needed to save a child's life. Called to action, they collaborated with Haitian activist John Dieubon to build an orphanage. Having local, trustworthy people on the ground has been essential to implementing sustainable, step-by-step solutions abroad. Servis and Jackson lived in a Florida homeless shelter so they could conserve money and contribute most of their earnings to the orphanage.

The three of them built a second orphanage together with money raised from two local religious institutions, Hollywood First Presbyterian and Temple Beth El. *The Homeless Voice*, the city's street paper, sponsored the third of the orphanages they built. A Florida firefighter sold his home to support the fourth orphanage.

Servis split from Planting for Peace when he and future Movement for Peace partner, Rahul Urs, realized that the treatment for intestinal parasites was a mere 1.3 cents per dose and that treating those parasites could end hunger for so many.

Now that he is back in Michigan, Servis has his eyes on Detroit. "There is so much that needs to be done there and I'd love to work in Detroit," he said. "There is so much devastation; so many abandoned houses. It reminds me

of that Will Smith movie, *I am Legend*. It's really an eerie experience. I would love to do more in Detroit, but there are issues we need to overcome, like the safety of our volunteers."

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Early rules to live by

by Karen Shellie

"I don't care if you see purple people. Just be quiet." These were words to live by in 1967, when I was five years old and entering my first real classroom in a public school. I was entering the first grade and my family had just moved to a new neighborhood.

My parents really wanted us to attend the local Catholic School. These were the days when the only schools of choice were public or Catholic school. When we moved to our new neighborhood in Macomb County, the local Catholic School was full and we were put on a waiting list.

I remember all of us being dropped off at the doors to the new school. It was a tall, red brick building that, looking back, resembled a detention facility. In front of the building was a wide horseshoe drive for parents and buses to drop off students. It was here, at this drive, that my mom laid out the first of many rules to come. In a very serious don't-question-me voice, she said, "I don't care if you see purple people today. Just be quiet."

I really didn't know what to make of this statement. Were there really going to be purple people in this school? Should I be afraid or excited? Would they be friendly purple people? Would the purple people like me? What do purple people eat? Do they speak the same as me? What do purple people do for fun? Do they watch cartoons? If they are purple, what color are their eyes? What color is their hair? I had so many questions. But, I had to remember to keep quiet. I don't think purple people like to talk.

I remember going to my classroom and feeling a little nervous. I didn't know what to expect; purple people for sure, but what else might there be? The classroom seemed so large. It was filled with rows of desks, all facing a large blackboard. There were posters on the wall and a stack of books on the teacher's desk. There were lots of kids my age. There were black kids, white kids, and Mexican kids. But I didn't see any purple kids. I kept glancing around at the class. Nope. Not a single purple person. Maybe they were coming later.

As I was caught up in looking for purple people, I didn't notice the one thing that would terrorize me for an entire school year. After scanning the room for purple people, I was eyes-to-mouth with the largest set of lips I had ever seen. There stood my first grade teacher, Mrs. Gillespie. Note that this was many years before ridiculously large lips were all the rage. She had lips large enough to challenge anyone in

today's Botox clinics.

Never mind the purple people. I was confused and a bit fearful of my teacher. At closer inspection, I noticed she was fairly short, somewhat round, had large round eyes, and was impeccably dressed. For the life of

me I could not figure out what was going on with this woman's lips. She would talk to me and I couldn't focus. I had never in my five years ever seen anything quite like her lips. They were large, red, and seemed to be in constant movement producing words I couldn't follow. Yes, I was having what's now known as a Charlie Brown's teacher moment. Everything came out sounding like "Wha wha, wha wha, wha books," or "Wha, wha, wha wha, wha homework." Who could concentrate? Needless to say, I was afraid. I didn't realize that her lips were normal; by today's standards, stylish even.

In utter terror for the first week of school, I would cry when my Mom dropped me off at school. I didn't want to go into that classroom and see this woman's scary lips. After about the third day, Mrs. Gillespie had had enough. She took my mom aside and told her that drastic action was needed. All three of us went into the girls' restroom – where my mom left me with Mrs. Gillespie. Yep, my mom bailed. She left me crying at the hands of the woman with the big lips.

Mrs. Gillespie was right, however: I needed to face my fears and realize that first grade with her really wasn't that bad. I did manage to get along after that first traumatizing week. She was actually very kind, with a passion for teaching. She was strict but with a very caring demeanor. I made a few new friends and successfully completed the first grade. I remained on the lookout for purple people.

Thankfully, I have evolved over the past 45 years. At the age of five, my mom wanted me to recognize that people are different and that's alright. We don't need to make a big deal about our differences. I've learned that, in fact, we all have more in common than we do differences. I learned to simply be quiet and listen to others who are



The family move to Macomb County in the late 1960s led to the kids' entry into public schools.

I moved to Ypsilanti Township about 12 years ago. I was a big fan of this area specifically because of the diversity of the population. In an effort to meet people in the area, I joined one of the Ann Arbor Reads programs. The book for discussion for the session was Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?, by Beverly Tatum. It was a great read, which deals more with why like races tend to stay together in most social settings.


I remember sitting with a small group of women, three of whom were friends. We began our discussion based on the questions as supplied by the moderator. The first question had to do with your earliest recollection of racial differences. I began to share my story about my mom's rule regarding purple people with the ladies in my group. I not so much as just mentioned purple people and the three looked at me all aghast.

different than me. There is a wealth of knowledge to be found in listening. I have since been involved in many activities at work and in my personal life to promote diversity and help others embrace and celebrate our likenesses as well as our differences.

Yes, I dared to be honest with my life experiences and share how a potentially negative situation really molded me into a more accepting person. I learned from a very early age that what you think might be scary is often not nearly as bad as what you can imagine.

Well, my attempt at sharing soon morphed into a discussion of their amazing parenting skills and more discussion about how wonderful their children were. They play soccer and they recycle. I was very happy that they were so pleased. What I wasn't able to share with these ladies, however, was the fact that during the fall of 1967, the year I began the first grade, the Detroit area was still recovering from the Detroit race riots from just a few months earlier. While my Mom's advice may have not have been "politically correct" by today's standards, she and my father moved us to Clinton Township earlier that year to put distance between us and a still-unstable Detroit. To that end, I consider my Mom to be incredibly wise. Without knowing it, she actually taught me to trust in the authority of my first grade teacher, who happened to be black, at a time when race relations could best be described as tumultuous.

Thanks to these ladies, I added a new rule to accompany keeping my mouth closed and ears open around purple people and things I don't understand. The newest rule is to have limited conversation with people disguising an opportunity to grow and improve our world as really just a night out with friends. From that event I made a decision to surround myself with people who actually take action and communicate to make our world a better place.



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Permit Denied!

by Susan Beckett

There was a flurry of media coverage when Ypsilanti Township rejected Groundcover's peddling permit request this fall. Reading the online comments, I realized there is a lot of misinformation out there, along with the uninformed prejudices that Groundcover endeavors to dissolve.

Safety concerns were cited by the Ypsilanti Township Board as one reason for their rejection. They feared being approached in their vehicles at traffic lights and freeway exits and having people rap on their windows. This reflects their experiences with panhandlers.

Our representative at the meeting, Greg Hoffman, repeatedly distinguished our salespeople, who adhere to a code of ethics and are instructed on local ordinances, from panhandlers. He also explained that our plan was to stand on the sidewalks or right of way between the dedicated exits of fast food restaurants and perhaps shopping areas;

that our vendors would stand on the driver's side of the sidewalk next to a sign the driver could see from a distance so they could decide whether or not to buy before reaching the exit; that in other cities that operate this way, the driver who wants to buy the paper or ask a question opens the window and beckons to the vendor while the uninterested driver simply exits.

Groundcover has permits in areas where it is legal to sell in the street to passing traffic. But we don't do that. It is dangerous for our vendors, possibly alarming to motorists, and could lead to congestion.

The second reason the Board cited for the rejection was that they didn't see the need, since Groundcover already has a permit for Pittsfield Township but has not yet established a presence in the Pittsfield section of Washtenaw Avenue. The main reason our vendors have

hesitated working on Washtenaw is the difficulty ascertaining which township or city a particular establishment is in. We had hoped to have permits for all the areas, so that we could establish guidelines that are in accordance with the regulations of all the governmental units and prepare

see PERMIT, page 11



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If you are looking for an economical, healthy, and colorful dish to brighten up your winter dinners, try this pungent side dish of red cabbage. If you are pressed for time and need a single-dish main meal, add any of your favorite cooked meats for the last few minutes of cooking. This works especially well with fake bacon, any kind of pork, and stew meats. (Poultry tastes fine but the red color it picks up can be off-putting.)

Cooked Red Cabbage

3 pounds red cabbage	2 Tbsp. currant jelly
¼ cup of apple cider vinegar	1 Tbsp. sugar
4 Tbsp. butter	1 tsp. salt
½ cup water	

Wash and shred cabbage. Melt butter in a deep saucepan. Add the cabbage and toss it around with a large spoon until evenly coated. Add the vinegar and water. Cover and cook over low heat for 1 ½ hours. Add the jelly, sugar, and salt and mix well. Cook for 20 min. Serves 6.

Hot Deals on Cool Stuff!



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Find it All at the Kiwanis Thrift Sale!

Discover for yourself why the Kiwanis Thrift Sale was selected as Ann Arbor's Best! Great values, exciting new merchandise weekly — and every purchase helps charities in our community!

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warm holiday wishes
from People's Food Co-op



\$1.00 off any purchase

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OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/2012

266 N. FORTH AVE.
ANN ARBOR, MI 48106
734-994-9574
PeoplesFoodCoop.org

Sudoku

***** 4puz.com

	9		7					8
3				1	5		7	
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Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

ACROSS

1. Trajectories

5. Russian ruler

9. From a safe distance

13. Ham's father

14. Extolled

16. Factual

17. _____ contenders

18. Battery terminal

19. Cincinnati club

20. Portrayer of Kris Kringle

23. Random number generator

24. Front part

25. Metal bar

27. Flying creature

30. South Dakota community

33. Supplication

34. Pole

36. Several

38. Entry authorization

41. African animal

42. Scarecrow component

43. Verve

44. _____ Yankees

45. Component

46. Pronunciation mark

47. Unseen quality

48. Time period

51. Tree

52. Japanese electronics manufacturer

54. Actress Zadora

56. Pronoun

57. Portrayer of Susan Walker, the young girl

65. Islamic cleric

67. Communion

68. _____, Baker, Charlie, _____

69. City in Kenya

70. Ape

71. Portrayal

72. Cheese

73. "Auld Lang _____"

74. Salvation

DOWN

1. Mokeys

2. One-quarter acre

3. Storm's predecessor

4. Yell

5. Merchant

6. Harmonized

7. Admit

8. _____ TV!, Brazilian broadcasting network

9. European aircraft maker (abbr.)

10. John Payne's role, the defense lawyer

11. Soundtrack

12. Initialize

15. "Man cave"

21. Eight bells, aboard ship

22. Nothing

26. "When hell freezes over"

27. Hairless

28. Continent

29. Jerome Cowan's role, the district atty.

31. Movie dog

32. Truck, in Britain

33. Seat

35. Apathy

37. Chess position

38. Salvage

40. Once more

42. Resort

46. Cheese

48. Director Howard

50. Per

52. Bell

53. Targeted

55. Prize

58. Bank's device (abbr.)

59. Desemocrative word

60. Fighting force

61. Beef part

62. Musical instrument

63. Cook pot

64. Woodlands animal

66. Speechless

Puzzle by Jeff Richmond

Cryptoquote

"...YWXP VT QYEQ TQAUUWCK QYVKM VKTVRP AT QYEQ VKTVTQT, RPTXVQP

ESS QYP PLVRPKIP QW QYP IWKQCECB, QYEQ TWNPQYVKM UPQQPC EFEVQT

AT TW SWKM ET FP YELP QYP IWACEMP QW JPPX CPEIVVKM, QW JPPX

FWCIVKM, QW JPPX HVMYQVKM."

— XCPTVRPKQ WUENE

Solutions on page 11

Groundcover Vendor Code

While Groundcover News is a nonprofit organization and newspaper vendors are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:

- Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations by any other means.
- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.
- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.
- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.
- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcov-

er News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.
- I will not sell Groundcover News under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover News but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
- I understand that my badge is property of Groundcover News and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers.
- I agree to stay off private property when selling Groundcover News.
- I understand to refrain from selling on public buses, federal property or stores unless there is permission from the owner.
- I agree to stay at least one block away from another vendor. I will also abide by the Vendor corner policy.

If you see any Groundcover News vendors not abiding by the code of conduct, please report the activity to: contact@groundcovernews.com 734-972-0926

December Calendar of Events

December 1-31 – *Whole Foods Market Grab & Give*, 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. Give a cash or food donation of any amount while in Whole Foods stores. All donations go to Food Gatherers. All Whole Foods locations. More info: www.foodgatherers.org.

December 1-8 – *Gordon's Food Service Food Drive*, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m. (M-Sa) / 12-5 p.m. (Su). Bring canned goods, turkeys, or hams to the cash register for donation. All donations go to Food Gatherers. GFS Marketplace, 3800 Carpenter Rd., Ypsilanti. More info: www.foodgatherers.org.

December 4/11/18/25 – *Tuesday Resume Clinics*, 9-11 a.m. Learn how to construct a resume and receive professional advice and editing. Washtenaw County Michigan Works! Career Transition Center, Key Bank Building, 2nd Floor, 301 West Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. More info: call (734) 544-6799; TDD (800) 649-3777.

December 5-9 – *Rockin' for the Hungry 2012 Food Drive*, 6 a.m. - 7 p.m. (through 12/8) / 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. (12/9). Food Gatherers' largest annual outdoor food drive, featuring live radio broadcasts from Ann Arbor's 107one FM. All non-perishable food items accepted. Kroger - Maple Road location, 400 South Maple Rd., Ann Arbor.

December 10 – *Groundcover Volunteer Meeting*, 7-8:30 p.m. Bethlehem United Church of Christ, Gallery Room, 423 S. 4th Ave., Ann Arbor. More info: contact@groundcovernews.com, or call (734) 972-0926.

December 21 – "*Peace Generator*" *Monthly World-Healing Peace Circle*, 7-9 p.m. Join others from all walks of life in silent prayer or focused meditation toward peace, understanding, joy, and healing for your family, the world, and yourself. Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd., Ann Arbor. More info: www.peacegenerator.org, or email info@peacegenerator.org.

COMMUNITY

9

Audience challenged by SPENT Poverty simulation

by Shelley DeNeve and Susan Beckett

Setting the stage for the simulation, Bob Guenzel, the recently retired Washtenaw County Administrator, told the audience it takes two-and-a-half minimum wage jobs to afford a typical apartment in Washtenaw County. It is the most expensive housing of any county in Michigan and higher than that of Durham, South Carolina, on whose numbers the simulation was based when it was developed three years ago. The simulation takes up the life of a single parent who, down to the last thousand dollars, struggled to hold on and then lost home and then job.

Each member of the audience was given a clicker to enable them to vote on which of the options should be selected at each juncture. The first choice faced by the audience was in which low-wage occupation to work. Forty-seven votes came in and the factory job was chosen over a restaurant worker or temp, presumably due to its higher wages. Hidden costs were soon encountered, like having to miss a day of work to allow a strained back to rest. The wages were \$1,224 per month after taxes, so the weekly take home pay was \$306.

In order to find an affordable 2-bedroom apartment, a location some distance from work was selected, but that added \$72 per month to transportation costs as well as taking more time each day. (It cost 77 cents in gas for every dollar saved in rent by living farther away.)

With \$882 going to rent and regular transportation, only \$342 remained for discretionary spending during the month. The audience elected to sign up for food stamps but still had to make it through the first month without them since it takes a month for them to kick in.

Sixty-seven percent of the audience deemed health insurance too costly for the monthly budget, but 62 percent opted to spring for the \$250 hospital visit when chest pains started the next week.

Reflecting the priorities of families in our area, the audience overwhelmingly chose to attend their child's school play rather than working overtime and securing another much-needed \$50. Children's needs were consistently prioritized, but ironically, the only spending choice that received a unanimous vote was to refuse the request of the child and visiting friend to buy from the nearby ice cream man. The majority choices were good enough

Left to right: Debby Jackson from the United Way, Lucia Heinold from the ICPJ and Tonya Correll from the Washtenaw Housing Association handing out clickers as people entered the Michigan Theater Screening room for the poverty simulation SPENT.

to get by for one month but set up disaster for the next month by listening to a union organizer, sufficient cause for termination by the factory.

Asked for their reactions to the simulation, local attorney Paul Sher commented that he found the exercise "heart wrenching. Some of those choices are not choices. That you might have to forgo something for your kid."

A boy in the audience especially struggled with the choices he was faced with for the sick pet: treatment at a cost of \$400, euthanasia at a cost of \$50, or taking no action.

Next, a panel presented some of their thoughts, then took questions from the audience. Panelist Jeff Irwin is a State Representative from Ann Arbor who previously served on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners for 11 years. He talked about how much worse the plight of the poor became when the federally funded food assistance benefits for some Michigan residents were eliminated due to Republican insistence on an asset test. That left people who had lost their jobs but still had a house or car unable to get food assistance, despite the difficulty of selling either asset during the height of the recession. The asset test was first softened and then eliminated, as it proved to be costly and time consuming, its elimination saving the state \$10 million in bureaucratic costs.

Irwin also noted that the lifetime cap of 48 months on cash assistance and the early termination of unemployment benefits created additional hardships for struggling families. He suggested

that all legislators need to hear more from low-income residents and advocates about their situation and what they need.

Ozone House executive director Katie Doyle explained that Ozone House concentrates on teaching teens how to be safe even while they are struggling to find food, a place to sleep each night, and the appearance of normalcy. They offer medical help, stability, and employment training to their clients. In fact, they use the SPENT simulation with board members and with youth as they decide how to move on with their lives.

"These are the kinds of decisions these kids make on a regular basis – over and over in their lives nearly every day; being safe tonight or eating," said Doyle. "The stress builds up. There is no vacation or end of the simulation."

Doyle echoed Irwin's dismay at the State's decision to eliminate the \$79 voucher that enabled the state's poorest children to buy clothes at the start of the school year, noting that social development and success in school were thereby jeopardized, especially for teens, who are so sensitive to how they are perceived by others.

Avalaon Housing executive director Carol McCabe remarked that Avalon had grown out of the shelter system 20 years ago, noting that the biggest cause of homelessness is a lack of affordable housing. As to why they provide supportive services, McCabe said, "There is a different set of skills and modes of decision-making to survive on the streets than long-term

planning. We now have families living in Avalon housing whose families were homeless as they grew up and then they were, too... It can really wear you down, generational poverty."

In response to an audience question, "Is there a sustainable plan for the future to solve these problems?," Julie Steiner, director of the program's sponsor Washtenaw Housing Alliance, explained a bit about the County's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. She noted that it called for 500 more units of affordable housing by 2014, but there will be only 150, due largely to the economic collapse.

She pointed out that Avalon's approach of adding to the stock of affordable, supportive housing was exactly what was needed. It allows people to stabilize their lives and move on.

As McCabe had pointed out, "Fifteen minutes to give someone who is mentally ill their medication is the difference between being homeless or housed." She went on to say that supportive housing is much more cost-effective than institutional responses like prisons and emergency rooms.

Steiner also noted the PORT model of taking to the streets and getting services to people on the edge before their mental illness or addiction propels them into a crisis, is now considered "best practice," and is being adopted by the other county agencies, such as Community Support and Treatment Services (CSTS).

The single point of entry for housing services was another step Steiner pointed out they had taken to address problems. "One of the hardest things of being on the streets is knowing where to go for what," Steiner remarked. "We [agencies] are limiting our scope to what we're really good at rather than trying to do everything ourselves," Steiner continued.

Examples included Ozone housing property being managed by Avalon Housing, and Food Gatherers training Ozone House clients as food workers.

The evening was quite an eye-opener, even for the many in the audience who were members of the low-income community themselves or worked with that group. Having to constantly choose among bad options left us all feeling stressed – and we only had to do it for a couple of hours! You can try the simulation yourself by going to playspent.org

www.groundcovernews.com

www.groundcovernews.com

Reflections on retrospective ‘Port Huron Statement’ conference

by David KE Dodge
Groundcover Contributor

“Baby boomers never tire of looking in the mirror, do they?” asks a comment posted in response to an AnnArbor.com article published in November by Ryan Stanton entitled “12 Highlights from Tom Hayden’s speech at the University of Michigan: ‘The Port Huron Statement wrote us’”

No, I guess we don’t tire of our reflections – at least figuratively speaking – though literally, I’ve been avoiding lengthy engagements with the mirror at shower time for years.

For the most part, nostalgic anticipation is what brought me, at age 62, to last month’s conference, “A New Insurgency: The Port Huron Statement in Its Time and Ours,” and at least sometimes influenced my choice of which panels and sessions



A young Alan Haber, a Port Huron organizer, considers how to bring about change.

to attend. My anticipations were gratified. The conference was clearly represented in its title, its publicity, and at least some of the session topics, as promoting dialogue on how the cultural revolution of the 60s and early

70s has informed the political activism arising in the wake of the 2008 collapse of the global financial system. But what largely captured my attention was the recollection of history – the reflections on events of the past.

But retrospection did not always prevail in my choice of what offerings of the conference I would attend. On Friday morning, a session entitled “Comparative New Lefts” was split into two separate panel discussions. Panel A was entitled “Transatlantic New Lefts,” oriented to the New Left in Europe, while Panel B, entitled “Hemispheric New Lefts,” concerned the New Left in the Americas. I chose Panel B, expecting the subject matter to be more relevant to what I consider the most pressing matters of current U.S. foreign policy.

After Panel B members gave their presentations, the first audience member to approach the open mic observed that the people in that room, which was sparsely filled, were relatively youthful. The speaker guessed that Panel A, presumably more heavily attended, probably attracted

see PORT HURON, page 11

Port Huron promise remains unfulfilled

continued from page 10

grey-headed participants in higher proportion. The supposition was that the Left of Europe had been more influential in the lives of young U.S. activists of the 60s, while the young activists of 2012 see the current events of the nations of the Americas as being more pressing.

For the purpose of this opinion piece, I take you back to the AnnArbor.com article cited above, and quote the twelfth “highlight” of Tom Hayden’s address: “On the importance of the 50th anniversary: ‘If we don’t remember our history, no one will. If we don’t

define the legacy, if we don’t define the lessons, if we don’t examine for future generations, it’s not clear who it would be left to....”

Even in uninteresting times, humans must accept that the significance, the objective truths of their current situation, will only be ascertainable by historians who work in the dispassionate, distant future – when records have been fully released – for assessment without the bias introduced under feelings born from harsh, direct experience, and when the results of critical decisions have been fully played out.

The times for those revolutionaries of the 60s certainly start as early as 1955, with Rosa Parks’ assertion of her humanity, and certainly end no earlier than 1973, when the last draftees, to date, reported for duty in the U.S. military. Those times were more than just interesting. They were full of fury. For the moment, all parties must accept that – to paraphrase Bob Dylan – you don’t need an historian to sense what was, and what is, at stake.

Canon history of the 60s is yet to be widely agreed upon. From my salient, reflecting age, I can only offer this confession to the Occupiers: the

revolution of my era did not slay The Monster – it merely startled it into full fury, in a battle which substantially predates the 20th-century United States, and promises to continue into a foreboding future.

We are the people of a generation passed, offered every early advantage, aging in at least modest comfort, housed now in mortgaged or subsidized dwellings, looking uncomfortably, even with shame, to the world we leave.

May the Occupiers do better.

Permits give guidelines

continued from page 7

our vendors with all the documentation they need so they could work free from harassment. A Supreme Court ruling has already upheld the right of street papers to sell throughout the land, so we will be heading to the townships this fall and winter.

The third reason given by a Board member was feeling uncomfortable about it, and I think this might have been the most honest answer of all. It is the rare person who does feel comfortable around extreme poverty. Most of us feel badly when we see someone struggling to get by, and that feeling worsens when we admit that we do not feel capable of intervening in a positive way. That is one of the main reasons for street newspapers. They afford an opportunity for people in different social strata to interact with one another in a safe, structured way and to conduct a dignified exchange of money for a product. As our editor Lee Alexander is fond of saying, “Nobody can help everybody, but everybody can help somebody.”

A customer recently emailed us with the following comment: “A vetted opportunity to help is a valuable thing. And you have given that to us. On a larger scale, the Groundcover newspaper has been a wonderful surprise to me. The consistently positive interaction with your vendors and the insight expressed in your stories has changed the way I view our community.”

Many of our customers would love to have suburban locations where they could pick up Groundcover, especially this time of year when downtown parking is so difficult on Saturdays. I’d guess that a number of people living in Ypsilanti Township would like access to another local newspaper, and that many would like to be able to provide direct assistance to someone who is struggling financially but working to get back on their feet.

Some of those who supported the decision of Ypsilanti Township are mired in stereotypes, such as the following comment posted on AnnArbor.com by ‘XMO’: “Please don’t make the home-

less work, it will ruin their non-work ethic! Nobody wants a homeless person in front of their business or in front of their residence. Why do we still have a homeless problem with all of the great facilities we have for the homeless?”

The commenter’s knowledge of homelessness is evidently limited to those people who sleep on the streets and panhandle. If it extended to the many who work every job they can find and still can’t afford the monthly rent for a place on a bus line, or those who desperately want to work but have a disability or circumstance that disqualifies them from traditional employment, Groundcover’s place in the employment continuum would make more sense. The commenter doesn’t know that the shelters are only for short-term stays and that there is a shortage of supportive, affordable housing in the area.

Lazy people do not stand for hours on end in all kinds of weather, opening themselves up to the possible rejection of the hundreds of people who pass them each day.

Groundcover readers’ replies to the hostile online comments affirmed our content and sales model are providing reading material and an opportunity for interaction and growth that is appreciated by many who give Groundcover a try.

Homeless Awareness Week, and especially the interactive presentation at the Michigan Theater on November 13, will provide opportunities for community members to become more informed about homelessness. They will experience the dilemma of having to choose the least disastrous course, knowing that all of the choices lead to deeper poverty. They will learn the circumstances that contribute to it and interventions that ameliorate it. They will leave with greater understanding.

GROUNDCOVER
Volunteer Meeting
Monday, December 10
Come and get involved!



GCN vendors up their computer skills

Six Groundcover vendors attended a course in basic computer literacy put together by social work intern Greg Hoffman. Three more volunteers assisted with individual training as three of the attendees were set up with their first-ever email addresses. Others got assistance with how to compose and manage messages. Kudos to Miriam, James W., Tony, Eddy, Shelley and Rose for improving their skills!

Today’s Laughsitive

“The biggest obstacle to a healthy ecosystem is an unhealthy egosystem.”

-- Swami Beyondananda

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“...Hope is that stubborn thing inside us that insists, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that something better awaits us so long as we have the courage to keep reaching, to keep working, to keep fighting.”

— President Obama

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Mysteries of antiquity in the Kelsey Museum



by Robert Salo
Groundcover Vendor

Considering that it is a repository of the past, the U-M Kelsey Museum of Archaeology is quite an exciting place. Their monthly evening lectures connect the collections with their civilizations of origin. A lecture this fall, "The Beast in Us All: Animals and Identity in Greek and Roman Antiquity," described how a collection of bones can be analyzed to learn about a society.

Bones are separated by type, and reconstruction detectives work with them to learn which animals the people chose to have live with them and their attitudes toward their pets and livestock. Deposits in the bones are clues to the composition of their diets and how food was prepared.

Originally built in 1888 for the Student Christian Associates, the cut stone building now known as the Kelsey Museum was acquired by the University of Michigan in 1928 to store archaeological artifacts collected by Latin professor Francis W. Kelsey. It became known as the Kelsey Museum of Archaeology in 1953.

The William E. Upjohn Exhibit wing was added in 2009 and became the home of more than 100,000 ancient and medieval objects from civilizations of the Mediterranean and Near East. The new space also allowed the museum to host lectures and celebrations.

For more information, visit www.lsa.umich.edu/kelsey, or go to the museum itself, located on State Street just south of William in Ann Arbor.



The new wing of the Kelsey exhibits a large part of their collection with abundant natural light.

Incomplete Without You

by Isom Courtwright
Groundcover Vendor

*It just isn't right without you here by my side.
When you're not with me it's like I can't walk straight, because you keep me on my toes, ready for whatever and truly focused.
I can't see straight because you keep me alert, expecting the unexpected,
I can't think straight because I can only think about all the delectable and exotic things I want to do to you.
I don't even feel right without you here by my side, because I can only think about your angel's breath, your soft skin, your beautiful smile, your picture-perfect dimples, your mystery-filled eyes and your warm, welcoming, sensual, mind-boggling touch.
I lay in bed at night and think about how long it'll be before I have you in my arms again.
When I close my eyes, I only see you.
It's like your face is burned into the back of my eyelids.
You're my dream come true.
Since day one, I knew you were different,
You weren't too wild or too preppy, you were just you, and that's what I love.
Through the good and the bad, the ups and the downs, we have survived the trials and obstacles life has thrown at us, and through it all, it has only made us better and bonded us that much better.
I feel like you were made for me and I was made for you.
I think that's why we met that particular day and just clicked so well, and look at us now, we goin' stronger than ever.
I'm counting the seconds until I see you again.
I'll be gone a year but that's only 31,536,930 seconds until I can see you again, but that's nothing, because when I do hold you in my arms again, that moment will last an eternity. Everything will cease to exist but YOU AND ME!
Time will become timeless and that's how I would want it to remain until forever.
I feel like all that I need in my life is you and your love.
All you have to do is be yourself and let me do the rest.
I know that I'm the one that will love you the most.
All I ask is that you feel the same for me and have the same feelings for me that I have for you.
So until I see you again, I'm just not me, because I AM INCOMPLETE WITHOUT YOU.*



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1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	2.5 X 6.5 or 5 X 3.25
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	4.5 X 5.5
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 X 6.5
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	5 X 14 or 6.5 X 10
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10 X 14

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